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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISTANB 02989 061008Z

22
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

/023 W
---------- 029691
R 060919Z AUG 76
FM AMCONGEN ISTANBUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7781
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJ: ARMENIAN PATRIARCH'S TRAVEL TO US

1. PATRIARCH OF ARMENIAN CHURCH IN TURKEY, SINORK KALUSTYAN, WILL BE TRAVELING TO U.S. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, 1976 FOR TWO OR THREE MONTH VISIT. THIS INFORMATION OBTAINED THROUGH VISA APPLICATION OF REVEREND SERKIS BARSAMOGLU WHO WILL ACCOMPANY PATRIARCH. CONGEN DOES NOT HAVE DETAILS OF ITINERARY, BUT STATED PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO VISIT ARMENIAN COMMUNITIES AND LIKELY WILL INCLUDE FRESNO AREA OF CALIFORNIA WHERE PATRIARCH HIMSELF RESIDED 1949-1956. PATRIARCH'S LAST TRIP TO U.S., OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE, WAS IN 1974 WHEN

HE APPARENTLY MADE SIMILAR GOODWILL TOUR.

2. COMMENT: WHILE TURKISH GOVERNMENT EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ACTIVITIES OF ARMENIANS IT APPARENTLY IS CONFIDENT THAT PATRIARCH SINORK'S DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT OF ARMENIANS IN TURKEY WILL NOT AROUSE ANTI-TURKISH FEELINGS. TURKISH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD TRAVE OF ARMENIAN PATRIARCH CONTRASTS MARKEDLY FROM THAT ACCORDED ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH (GREEK). LATTER WAS REFUSED PASSPORT TO ENABLE HIM TO TRAVEL TO WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI
LAST YEAR. ALSO, TURKISH GOVT REFUSED ISSUE PASSPORT TO
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METROPOLITAN MELITON TO REPRESENT ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH AT ENTHRONE-

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MENT OF ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY IN JANUARY 1975.

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